

# *Documents on Diplomacy: Resources*

## *Section VIII: Isolationism* *Diplomatic Terms & Historical Events*

### *Diplomatic & Other Terms*

*Ambassador* The official representative from one country to another. An Ambassador is the highest ranking official assigned to live in a foreign country for an extended period of time. In the United States, an Ambassador is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The title of Ambassador was first used in the United States in 1893. Prior to that, the highest ranking American diplomats were Ministers Plenipotentiary.

*Arbitration* The formal process of dispute settlement by referring the matter to mediator agreed to by the disagreeing parties.

*Belligerent States* Nations which are in a recognized state of war.

*Blockade* An official action designed to prevent people or goods from moving from one place to another. A war measure that isolates some area of importance to the enemy.

*Chargé d'Affaires* The member of a diplomatic mission who takes charge of an embassy or legation during the temporary absence of its head. The chargé may also be the diplomat who acts as head of a country's lowest-level diplomatic mission that is neither an embassy nor a legation.

*Commission* A group of representatives or diplomats who are given authority to accomplish a specific task.

*Consul* An official appointed by a government to protect its commercial interests and help its citizens in a foreign city.

*Diplomacy* The term is used to describe the practice of conducting relations with other nations, such as negotiating treaties, alliances, or agreements.

*Diplomat* An individual who is appointed by a government to represent its interests and to conduct its relations with another government. An Ambassador is the highest ranking U.S. Department of State diplomatic representative to another nation.

*Diplomatic Corps* Those engaged in on-going or specific official diplomatic efforts. Included are the Secretary of State, ambassadors, and special envoys to other nations and their staff members who support the work of diplomacy.

*Diplomatic Mission* An individual or group sent by a government to conduct negotiations or establish relations with another country. A diplomatic mission can be temporary or permanent.

*Dispatches* Official messages sent with speed between a government and its overseas diplomats or between nations.

*Embargo* An official ban by a government preventing trade with another country. An order of a state forbidding ships to enter or leave its ports.

*Embassy* The official headquarters of a government's Ambassador and other representatives to another country. It is usually located in the capitol of the other country. An Embassy is the highest level of diplomatic representation.

*Envoy* An agent sent by a government or ruler to transact diplomatic business.

*Foreign Policy* The official views and policies of a government regarding its relations with other nations. In the United States, foreign policy is developed by the President, with the advice of the Secretary of State and others, and is implemented by the Department of State and any other officials designated by the President.

*Isolationism* The policy of non-participation in contentious international matters. It was particularly associated with the United States during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

*League* An old term for an alliance.

*Legation* A diplomatic mission headed by a Minister whose title was "Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary." A legation is the second level of diplomatic representation and is less important than an embassy.

*Minister Plenipotentiary* A diplomat with the authority to represent a head of state but of a lower status than an Ambassador. Until 1893, diplomats who headed American missions overseas only carried the title of Minister Plenipotentiary. The complete title is "Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary."

*Negotiate* The term refers to discussions between individuals, groups, or nations that are conducted for the purpose of arriving at an agreement on a particular set of terms or actions.

*Neutrality* A legal status assumed unilaterally by a state during a time of war, indicating its intention to stay out of the war.

*Protocol* The system of rules and acceptable behavior used at official ceremonies and occasions. This may also refer to an official international agreement.

*Ratify* A state's formal act of consent to be bound by a treaty which it has already signed. In the United States, the Senate ratifies treaties negotiated by the Executive Branch.

*Rebellion* An attempt to remove a government or a leader by force.

*Refugees* A person who leaves his or her country to find safety, especially during war or for political or religious reasons.

*Revolt* An attempt to remove the government of a country by its some of its citizens, using force.

*Sovereignty* The authority of a state to govern itself.

*Statesman* An experienced politician, who is respected for making good decisions.

*Treaty* A formal agreement between two or more countries or states, as in reference to terms of peace or trade and any limitations associated within the agreement.

*Important Places, Concepts, and Events*

*Analogous Liquids:* Types of liquids that share similar characteristics.

*Appeasers:* Leaders who try to avoid war or open hostilities by making concessions to an opponent. Used most often to refer to diplomacy during the 1930s on the part of Britain and France toward Hitler.

*Armaments:* Military weapons and/or explosives

*Arsenal:* A nation's extensive collection of weapons

*"Arsenal of Democracy":* A famous phrase used by Franklin Roosevelt to describe the role of the United States before the United States officially entered World War II.

*Asphyxiate:* To cause someone to be unable to breathe.

*Autonomy:* The right of a group of people to govern themselves, often as a subdivision of a sovereign state with self rule but not independence.

*Axis Powers:* The name used to refer to Germany and its allies, Italy and Japan, during World War II.

*Blacklist:* To keep names of a group of people who are unacceptable with the goal of hindering their economic, political, or social advancement.

*"Cash and Carry":* The American policy toward British purchases from the United States before the United States entered WWII.

*Collective Security:* The principle that all members of a group of states are jointly responsible for the security of each individual state.

*Consecrate:* To make a place or object holy in a religious service.

*Four-Power Treaty:* One of the treaties resulting from the Washington Naval Conference of 1921; signed by the United States, Great Britain, France, and Japan.

*Humanity:* May refer to the whole human species or empathy and compassion toward others.

*Kellogg-Briand Pact:* Co-authored by Secretary of State Frank Kellogg and French Foreign Minister Aristide Briand, the treaty renounced war as an instrument of policy except in the case of self-defense. It was wildly popular and completely ineffective.

*League of Nations:* The first permanent international organization dedicated to maintaining world peace. It was founded as the result of the Paris Peace Conference that ended World War I.

*Lytton Report:* A report generated by the League of Nations that attempted to determine the causes of the Mukden Incident that led Japan to invade Manchuria and set up the puppet state of Manchukuo.

*Manchukuo:* The Japanese name for its puppet state set up in the region of China called Manchuria.

*Manchuria:* A region of northeast China occupied by the Japanese during the 1930s.

*Morality:* A set of standards for deciding right from wrong.

*Mukden:* A city in Manchuria known today as Shenyang. A 1931 incident here caused the Japanese to create the puppet state of Manchukuo.

*Munitions:* Military weapons including guns and bombs.

*Nine-Power Treaty:* A treaty affirming the territorial integrity of China signed by nations attending the Washington Naval Conference of 1921-1922. The treaty had no enforcement provisions and was completely ineffective.

*Ordinance:* Weapons used by the military.

*Pacific Means:* Peaceful ways of reacting to a situation or provocation.

*Pacifism:* The belief that war and violence are wrong.

*Pan Americanism:* A movement to encourage cooperation and close ties amongst the nations of the Americas who share common interests.

*Repatriation:* The act of bringing someone or something back to the country from which that person or thing came.

*Reciprocal Assurances:* A behavior that underlies most diplomatic activity, stipulating that if Party A acts in a certain way, Party B claims the right to react similarly. It contributes to ensuring the observance of legal obligations between nations.

*Sabotage:* The act of damaging or destroying something to prevent an enemy from using it.

*Solidarity:* Agreement between and support for members of a group or between different nations.

*Sutlers:* Civilian merchants who sold food and supplies to armies in the field or in camp.

*Telegraphically:* To transmit a message over long distances by using electronic signals by means of a telegraph machine. Used from the early 19<sup>th</sup> to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

*War Reparations:* Payments intended to cover damage or injury during war from the defeated aggressor nation to its opponents. Germany paid the last installment on its WWI debts in October 2010.

*Washington Naval Conference:* A military conference called by President Warren G. Harding in 1921. Nine nations with interests in East Asia and Pacific were invited to attend with the goal of reducing tension by placing limits on naval power.